

MINUTES

**THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF ALDERMEN
CITY OF BRANSON, MISSOURI
May 26, 2020**

INTRODUCTORY

The Board of Aldermen of the City of Branson, Missouri, met in regular session in the Council Chambers of the City Hall on May 26, 2020, at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Akers called the meeting to order with the "Pledge of Allegiance" and Jamie Rouch gave the invocation.

ROLL CALL

City Clerk Lisa Westfall called roll: Mayor Edd Akers presiding, Brian Clonts, Bob Simmons, Bill Skains, Larry Milton and Rick Castillon. Absent: Kevin McConnell.

AWARDS / RECOGNITIONS

Employee of the Month

Alderman Clonts presented John Pate of the Police Department as the May Employee of the Month in recognition for displaying City of Branson Values.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

Mayor Akers read a statement regarding decorum and stated in order to give everyone a chance to speak tonight, I would like to ask that if you are speaking on an item that you keep your comments succinct, to the topic and as short as possible. You will be allowed to only speak once on an item and please do not repeat what has already been said by another speaker. Once public discussion has ended on an item and the Board starts their discussion, no additional comments will be taken from the audience unless an Alderman specifically requests that we ask someone back up. Please remember to speak into the mic, state your name and address for the record, and there is a five minute limit.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Doug Clark, 121 A St. Andrews Street, Branson, Missouri, commented he's been here before and expressed he's mainly concerned about the Constitution and what's being done locally that has some bearing on that. He mentioned people do say the pledge and say an oath to agree to support the Constitution, although local oaths of office don't say defend it from enemies foreign and domestic. Mr. Clark said he thinks there are some domestic enemies in our midst and people may or may not know about the intricacies and connections between public policy coming from Washington D.C. down through the state. He explained over the last 30 years he's watched the United Nation's policies and compared them to how they balance against U.S. Code, title laws, the Constitution and some of the violations of the Sherman and Clayton Anti-Trust Acts. He fears there's a combination of all of this involved in the current healthcare situation and explained the reason he says this is because the World Health Organization (WHO) is the

primary dictate to the National Institute of Health (NIH). Those organizations have taken that policy and made it into public health policy without really integrating it into actual physical, forcible law. He commented the problem is there's a situation across the country where there's all kinds of variables on how this is enforced. He reported in some places people are being arrested for unimaginable things and there's women and children having problems with this kind of stuff. He feels what people have to understand is Title 18 Section 242 under Color of Law can't be violated by declaring an emergency through the public health system. Mr. Clark said the public health system is not something that's been totally authorized as a statute law that's been run through the State of Missouri legislature, debated and put into effect. He referred to the Model State Emergency Health Care Act of 2011 and reported it was written by two professors and had received quite a bit of pushback because it was for anthrax and small pox. Mr. Clark added, there's a lot of obtuse, emergency things that include a lot of people, especially doctors, who when called upon in a national emergency have to go where they're told to perform. Whether or not they want to or it's a felony violation. All of this stuff kicks in with a lot of force and a lot of people will be subjected to it before they can go back to work under some of the requirements being made up. Mr. Clark pointed out this didn't just happen overnight, some of it has been planned for years and has been taught and talked about for at least 10 years that he knows of. He reported people will be required to have a test or have their temperature taken to see if they're a carrier or in the process of having a disease. If they test positive, then they'll have to get a vaccine or self-quarantine and it will be enforceable by whatever entity in the local community is going to be the enforcement arm of that. Typically, it's the local police who does it in the majority of the cases and a lot of sheriffs are not agreeing with this. He explained there are two things that will be done, the first being if people get the vaccine, it will be an RNA or mRNA vaccine with a tracer that has the ability to read if a person has the vaccine. In addition, people could also have a tattoo that's made from the same substance that will read like a barcode. As a Bible believer, he referred to the warning about that in the Bible and asked why people are acquiescing to those who are violating their Constitutional Rights. He added, over protection of their bodies for one thing and dictating what commerce is for another. He commented the violation of the Anti-Trust Acts with this is that Dr. Anthony Fauci, Mr. Collins and several other people who are seen on TV every day are in cross directorships of corporations that are going to directly make money from producing these things. That is against the law for a variety of reasons; a conflict of interest and they are producing a profit off of what he's describing here. He said he can prove everything he's saying and offered to educate anyone who cares to know about it. Mr. Clark reported he has about 15 notebooks on just this aspect alone, where it started, how it's evolved and he hopes someone might have a little bit of interest in finding out where it all began.

ANNOUNCEMENT

IT Director Chad Forster announced he'd like to make everyone aware of the new cameras in the Council Chambers. He explained prior to COVID-19, the City began looking at platforms to enhance its transparency to include audio visual systems for the Council Chambers. He noted as the City continues to work through the COVID-19 situation and focus on social distancing, two cameras have been added. He explained some minor production during the meeting will enable it to be streamed to YouTube and citizens can watch live from nearly any device by clicking on the livestream link on the City's website. He mentioned Communications Manager Melody Pettit will also post the link on Facebook. He pointed out microphone levels at the podium and dias have been increased and he encouraged people to keep the microphone close while speaking into them to ensure everyone listening in person and via livestream can hear clearly.

Mayor Akers stated it is my responsibility as Mayor under state law to take care of the ordinances of our City and the state laws relating to our City are complied with. Under one of our ordinances, Branson Municipal Code 2-64, I am tasked with the responsibility of being the Presiding Officer of the Board and am required to preserve strict order and decorum at all meetings of the Board. Decorum is often defined by the dictionary as propriety and good taste in conduct or appearance. In one of the many definitions of order is the state of peace, freedom from confused or unruly behavior and respect for the law and proper authority. Unfortunately, we've had a number of recent abstentions from votes without proper basis for the

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abstentions. The citizens of Branson elected us to make decisions on policy matters and we make those decisions by voting. We are obligated to vote unless a conflict of interest prevents us from doing so. The common law in the State of Missouri supports this. Although I cannot force any member of the Board to cast a vote and no member can be required to cast a vote, I do have the ability to control the order and decorum of these meetings. As a result, I'm announcing under my authority to preserve order and decorum of these meetings, that any abstention by any member of the Board during the meeting can be recast as a no vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Akers asked if there were any citizens who had any items they wished to have removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked if any member of the Board had any items they wished to have removed from the Consent Agenda. Alderman Clonts requested Item Number 12 be removed from the Consent Agenda and placed as the first item on the Regular Agenda. Mayor Akers asked City Clerk Lisa Westfall to read the items on the Consent Agenda as amended. City Clerk Lisa Westfall read the following Consent Agenda items by title.

Approval of Board of Aldermen Minutes:

- a) May 4, 2020 Special Meeting
- b) May 12, 2020 Regular Meeting

Acknowledge Receipt of Minutes:

- a) Advisory Park Board meeting of January 21, 2020

Acknowledge Receipt of Annexation Petition filed for:

- a) Property located at 135 Lakefront Drive, Branson, Missouri

BILL NO. 5809

Ord. No. 2020-0055

Approving the renewal of the contract with Online Solutions LLC d/b/a Citizenserve for a land management software solution.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5809, an ordinance approving the renewal of the contract with Online Solutions LLC d/b/a Citizenserve for a land management software solution and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0055 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5810

Ord. No. 2020-0056

Approving the renewal of the contract with Arvest Bank for purchase card services.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5810, an ordinance approving the renewal of the contract with Arvest Bank for purchase card services and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0056 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5811**Ord. No. 2020-0057****Approving the renewal of the contract with Central Bank for banking services.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5811, an ordinance approving the renewal of the contract with Central Bank for banking services and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0057 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5812**Ord. No. 2020-0058****Approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Taney County and the City of Branson to allow the County to provide funding toward the cost of the City's Planned 2020 Sewer System Improvements.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5812, an ordinance approving an Intergovernmental Agreement between Taney County and the City of Branson to allow the County to provide funding toward the cost of the City's Planned 2020 Sewer System Improvements and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0058 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5813**Ord. No. 2020-0059****Accepting the proposal of Gulf State Distributors, Inc. to provide ammunition.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5813, an ordinance accepting the proposal of Gulf State Distributors, Inc. to provide ammunition and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0059 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5814**Ord. No. 2020-0060****Approving the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Missouri Department of Public Safety pertaining to the Law Enforcement Support Office Program.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5814, an ordinance approving the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Missouri Department of Public Safety pertaining to the Law Enforcement Support Office Program and authorizing the Mayor to execute the agreement was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0060 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5815**Ord. No. 2020-0061****Accepting the proposal of Under the Wire, LLC pertaining to traffic signal maintenance services for the City.**

Final Reading of Bill No. 5815, an ordinance accepting the proposal of Under the Wire, LLC pertaining to traffic signal maintenance services for the City and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0061 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5817
Ord. No. 2020-0062

Approving a Second Amendment to the contract with Stoneridge Carpet, Inc. d/b/a Stoneridge Flooring Design pertaining to carpet replacement.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5817, an ordinance approving a Second Amendment to the contract with Stoneridge Carpet, Inc. d/b/a Stoneridge Flooring Design pertaining to carpet replacement and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0062 was duly enacted.

BILL NO. 5819
Ord. No. 2020-0064

Approving the 2020-2021 Property/Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage and premiums paid to Connell Insurance, Inc. with Property/Liability Coverage through Tokio Marine HCC (HCC), and Workers' Compensation Coverage through Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company (MEM) for the City of Branson.

Final Reading of Bill No. 5819, an ordinance approving the 2020-2021 Property/Liability and Workers' Compensation Insurance Coverage and premiums paid to Connell Insurance, Inc. with Property/Liability Coverage through Tokio Marine HCC (HCC), and Workers' Compensation Coverage through Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance Company (MEM) for the City of Branson and authorizing the Mayor to execute the document related thereto was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 2020-0064 was duly enacted.

Mayor Akers opened the floor for a motion to approve all items on the Consent Agenda as amended. Alderman Skains moved to approve all items on the Consent Agenda, seconded by Alderman Milton. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

REGULAR AGENDA

BILL NO. 5818
POSTPONED

Approving the Sale of Real Estate to Rodriguez Real Estate Investment LLC.

First Reading of Bill No. 5818, an ordinance approving the Sale of Real Estate to Rodriguez Real Estate Investment LLC and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by City Attorney Chris Lebeck. Mayor Akers asked for a motion to postpone the Final Reading of Bill No. 5818 to a date not to exceed June 23, 2020. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Castillon. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding the postponement. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO.
2020-R008

Resolution approving a Special Event Permit Application for the Veteran's Day Parade.

A Resolution approving a Special Event Permit Application for the Veteran's Day Parade was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was provided by Planning and Development Director Joel Hornickel. Mayor Akers asked for a motion adopting the resolution. Alderman Clonts so moved, seconded by Alderman Skains. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding

this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Skains and Castillon. Nays: Milton. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Resolution No. 2020-R008 was adopted.

BILL NO. 5820

Approving a Final Subdivision Plat for 248 Parkway, Phase II.

First Reading of Bill No. 5820, an ordinance approving a Final Subdivision Plat for 248 Parkway, Phase II was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Planning and Development Director Joel Hornickel. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5820. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Castillon. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

BILL NO. 5821

Approving an agreement for Professional Consultant Services between the City of Branson and HDR Engineering, Inc. for Subgrade Analysis and Preliminary Engineering of a Flood Protection System at the City's Compton Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant.

First Reading of Bill No. 5821, an ordinance approving an agreement for Professional Consultant Services between the City of Branson and HDR Engineering, Inc. for Subgrade Analysis and Preliminary Engineering of a Flood Protection System at the City's Compton Drive Wastewater Treatment Plant and authorizing the Mayor to execute the contract was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Utilities Director Mike Ray. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5821. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Clonts. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

BILL NO. 5822

Amending the adopted 2019 Budget for the City of Branson to adjust monies for the Tourism Fund for the Branson MO Regional Airport TDD.

First Reading of Bill No. 5822, an ordinance amending the adopted 2019 Budget for the City of Branson to adjust monies for the Tourism Fund for the Branson MO Regional Airport TDD was read by title by City Clerk Lisa Westfall and a staff report was presented by Finance Director Jamie Rouch. Mayor Akers asked for a motion approving Bill No. 5822. Alderman Skains so moved, seconded by Alderman Clonts. Mayor Akers asked for anyone in the audience wishing to speak regarding this matter. Hearing none, Mayor Akers asked for comments from the Board. Discussion. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Milton, Skains and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried.

MAYOR/ALDERMEN/ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

Alderman Skains mentioned participating in a conference call all day today to discuss allocations and additional monies coming in under dislocated workers due to the increased number of people being laid off. This area will get anywhere from an additional \$600,000 to \$2 million that will be added to the amount available to people wanting to enter institutional training through technical and community colleges. Alderman Skains said we're going through a time like we haven't seen since the 1980s such as when Reynolds, Alcoa, Dow and Kodak were laying off. This is a totally different thing with many businesses closing due to COVID-19 and he just wanted to make the point that people are keeping on it.

Alderman Milton said his report is very troubling and should be for this Board and concerned citizens of Branson. He said he's raising a red flag regarding the public safety tax fund, but first he'll provide some background and then specific concerns. This safety tax was passed by Branson residents and the fund began collecting taxes April 1st 2018. Voters were promised if they passed this tax there would be an oversight committee and there would be no supplanting from the general fund. Betsy McConnell first addressed this Board on Feb 11th, asking financial questions about the safety tax fund and Alderman Skains has commented from the dias, stating there is an oversight committee. Alderman Milton mentioned receiving phone calls from residents and business owners inquiring about her questions and he replied that he'd get back with them. At the time, he thought that would probably take an hour or two by contacting the public safety tax fund oversight committee and get those questions answered. He recalled contacting Alderman Skains who is a member of the oversight committee, and asking him three very basic questions. Alderman Milton commented Alderman Skains wouldn't answer any of his questions and had referred him to the chairman of the oversight committee, Dick Gass. He added, these questions were so simple that he asked Alderman Skains why he wouldn't answer them and his only response was to contact the chairman of the committee. Alderman Milton said he was dumbfounded why he would not answer these questions and mentioned Alderman Skains responded to him by saying it was the third time he told him to contact the chairman. Alderman Milton mentioned contacting the chairman, Dick Gass, and asked him the same three questions he had asked Alderman Skains. Question number one: Does the oversight committee have scheduled meetings or does it meet as needed? The chairman's response was it meets as needed. Alderman Milton clarified he asked this because he wanted to attend the next oversight committee meeting to ask some financial questions. Question number two: How often did the committee meet in 2019? The chairman told him he was not certain, but probably four or five times. Alderman Milton said he asked this to get an idea of how long it would be before the next meeting so he could attend. He noted he asked Alderman Skains how many times the committee met, because maybe he wasn't available to attend all the meetings, and asked him how many times he met with the committee and he refused to answer. Question number three: Does the oversight committee review the financials for this fund? The chairman's response was no, they only compare the tax collected for the public safety tax fund with the tax collected for the transportation tax to make sure these were close to the same amounts due to the transportation tax being collected the same way. Alderman Milton recalled Betsy McConnell addressed the Board of Aldermen for a second time on February 27th regarding the accountability of this fund. She stated that the info she was provided by the City was missing \$3.1 million. He reported he then received several calls inquiring about this. After this communication, he raised a yellow flag and asked who reviews the financials for the public safety tax fund and was told that the Budget and Finance Committee is the oversight committee that reviews these funds. Alderman Milton said he was alarmed because he is on the Budget and Finance Committee and it hasn't acted as an oversight committee for this fund. He recalled at each meeting reviewing a one to two page summary report of this fund, but in no way did it act as an oversight committee looking for possible supplanting of funds for example. Now that he was made aware that he was on the committee responsible for overseeing the financials, he started asking questions. He admitted his frustrations started building as many of his questions were met with resistance and deflecting and he was unable to get straight answers. For example, he wanted to see a print out from the City's accounting software that provided each check written from this account and he was provided the same report that was later posted on the City of Branson's website. He responded to Assistant City Administrator John Manning that this report was a 134 page document in PDF format and was not very useful. He explained the report is in order by vendor number and he asked anyone that's listening to go to the City's website, look at the public safety expense report and see if it provides them any information. Alderman Milton said he then asked if this same information could be provided and sorted by description so it would make some sense. Assistant City Administrator Manning's response was that the accounting software was not able to provide this information and the City's looking into a new software that would provide this information. Alderman Milton commented, one might think that an accounting department with a budget in excess of \$1 million annually would be able to provide this basic information with or without a new accounting software program. Alderman Milton said he exported this PDF document into Microsoft Excel which took him about 10 minutes and he now has a file that can be sorted by descriptions, dates, amounts, vendor numbers and so on. He also inserted the 2017 expense that was provided to him by Assistant City Administrator John Manning. He explained he wanted this information, because 2017 is what he looked at as a base year without the public safety tax so he could verify there was no supplanting from the general fund. His Excel file will sort all the checks from the past three years any way he'd like, including by the description of the checks and who they were paid to. A few

results from this Excel file says in the past three years there was a total of 7,258 checks written for public safety: 2,211 checks in 2017; 2,258 checks in 2018; and 2,791 checks in 2019. He wanted to review any possible supplanting as there were 412 new descriptions used and 51 new vendor accounts added in 2019 that were not used in 2017 or 2018. He feels this doesn't prove anything by itself, but he thought it would be a good place to start. He said he wants to wrap this up and not bore everyone with the questions that this report raises as this will be done later. Before he does, he said he needs to say that he's sick and tired of Mayor Akers repeatedly asking why one Alderman is asking these questions, what he plans on doing with this information and what his motives are behind asking these questions. Alderman Milton stated these questions should come from the Board of Aldermen, not just one Alderman, and should come from the Budget and Finance Committee, not just one committee member. He responded to Mayor Akers by saying he's just trying to get some questions answered, but if he wanted this to blow up and not simply answer his questions, he would certainly do it. Alderman Milton explained that is what he's doing tonight. He reported spending over 100 hours over the past five months and is tired of getting the resistance and run around. City Administrator Stan Dobbins, Finance Director Jamie Rouch and Assistant City Administrator John Manning have repeatedly said they've provided the same information over and over and ask him why he keeps asking questions. Alderman Milton said his simple answer is that he's been provided with bits and pieces of information that he's been unable to add up. He gave an example of the expenses posted on the City's website and pointed out when totaling up the year 2018, the expenses add up to \$2,413,973.16 without payroll. He added, but when Finance Director Jamie Rouch was asked the same question at Tuesday's meeting, she responded with \$909,601.00 without payroll. He explained he's raising a red flag today as much of his communication has been going back forth countless times via email. He mentioned asking for Assistant City Administrator John Manning and Finance Director Jamie Rouch to sit with him and go through his questions together. He was somewhat surprised when he arrived at the meeting to find Assistant City Administrator John Manning and Finance Director Jamie Rouch along with Mayor Akers, Fire Chief Ted Martin, Police Chief Jeff Matthews and Executive Assistant to the City Administrator Chena Simmons in attendance. He reported this meeting was on Tuesday, May 19th in which he asked for some basic financial information regarding Police and Fire revenue expenses including the public safety tax fund. He explained he was asking for six blanks to be filled in and to think of how simple it sounds to him. Start with the beginning balance, how much money went in, how much money came out, if there was any money spent on capital improvements and the ending balance. He recalled beginning the meeting asking to simply provide the answers to these questions and said this meeting should not take more than 30 minutes. Alderman Milton reported the meeting lasted an hour and a half; 10 minutes providing the answers asked for pertaining to 2018 and the rest of the meeting arguing over why he was asking these questions. He mentioned interrupting the meeting several times after 15 minutes of back and forth and kept reminding everyone in the meeting they could have already finished versus debating it back and forth. He explained Finance Director Jamie Rouch assisted him in completing the six answers for 2018 which took about 10 minutes. He then asked to spend 10 minutes to complete the questions for 2019 and entered the ending balance of 2018 into the beginning balance column for 2019, and that's when the train fell off the tracks. The ending balance in 2018 and the beginning balance for 2019 was off by about \$142,000 and Finance Director Jamie Rouch immediately said she knows where that difference was; however, he went through the 2020 annual budget and couldn't find it. He reported Finance Director Jamie Rouch said she would provide him with the explanation since she knew where it was and would fill out the questions and get them back to him the same or the following day. He stated he has not heard a peep and does not have the hours or desire to continue playing charades and chasing down this information. He said he does not believe, nor does he have any reason to believe, there's any wrong doing going on with the City's finances. He added, he's not perfect and he surely doesn't expect the accounting department to be perfect, but would expect them to be accurate. He explained everyone makes mistakes; however, he should be able to ask questions without causing so much push back and uproar. Alderman Milton thinks it's a good idea to have a second set of eyes reviewing the details of the City's accounts, at least initially for the public safety tax fund. He explained this is so Aldermen can report back to taxpayers that this fund does have financial oversight and can confirm there was no supplanting as was promised them. He commented he chose to be an Alderman, he votes his conscience and asks questions to be responsible to his ward and the entire community. He wants to believe that residents and business owners expect him to ask questions and not simply go along with City Hall, smile, stay quiet and vote along with whatever it's recommending. It's obvious that the Mayor and City Hall would prefer he stay quiet and shut up, but he cannot do that. If the Aldermen were not asking questions, people would not need Aldermen because the City Administrator and Staff could just make the

decisions for everyone. He stated there are three Aldermen who constantly ask the hard questions and are occasionally called obstructionists and troublemakers. In his heart of hearts, he believes the community is much better off having Aldermen who take the occasional criticism in order to make a positive difference. He asked the Board to consider expanding the scope of work for the current City audit which is taking place right now to include a detailed audit addressing the public safety tax fund so Aldermen can report back to residents. He asked City Administrator Stan Dobbins to place this item on the next Board of Aldermen meeting to be discussed and voted on.

City Administrator Stan Dobbins addressed Alderman Milton's comments and said he understands his frustration, but feels the biggest problem is his lack of understanding of governmental financing. He mentioned there's been more than one meeting in which the individuals Alderman Milton noted have sat down with him and tried to explain the information to him. City Administrator Dobbins said supplanting does not exist and he reported the City's annual audits do audit the public safety fund and last year's audit came back completely clean. The Budget and Finance Committee does review every expenditure and he explained the report Alderman Milton received was because he had asked for every expenditure from the public safety fund and he apologized for the large size of the report. City Administrator Dobbins commented the Police and Fire Departments are integral in the review of their own budgets as well as the issue of the public safety fund sales tax. It only provides a certain portion of funds to the Public Safety Department and then the City provides \$7.6 million on top of that; all of those funds that come together are combined to be able to pay the employees. He stated the biggest expense in those expenditures are employee salaries and he clarified when Alderman Milton talks about the funds involved, yes there was some money spent from it for capital because of the two new buildings the City's trying to get built. He thanked Alderman Milton for noting City Staff isn't perfect and he mentioned they try to find and correct any mistakes. City Administrator Dobbins promised Alderman Milton there's no deception and said he's not sure what the issue was as far as the meeting since he was not in attendance. He reported every time Alderman Milton has asked for anything, he's instructed Assistant City Administrator John Manning and Finance Director Jamie Rouch to provide it in the best format possible for him to understand.

Mayor Akers mentioned receiving word today about the employment office in Branson trying to reopen June 15th in order to deal with unemployment issues for the people in the community. There are several people out of work or not working the number of hours they'd like, and he knows Alderman Skains has had a lot to do with getting the employment office back open and available. Mayor Akers announced the 86th Annual Missouri Municipal League (MML) Conference is in September and they also have a conference every year after the election for new Aldermen and Mayors which is wonderful information. He expressed his desire for all of the Aldermen to go because they can get ideas from other people and hear other people share about the difference between government accounting and regular corporate accounting. They also provide information about Alderman responsibilities which he feels is a great help and he wishes more Aldermen had taken advantage of going to those sessions. He commented on Memorial Day Weekend and how it will be a period of time before knowing what the possible ramifications from the virus might be. Mayor Akers said obviously it was a time to stop and remember the reason for Memorial Day and was a special time to be able to watch some ceremonies that took place honoring those fallen heroes. He believes the future of Branson will greatly depend on how well it's able to deal with this virus as people don't know what's going to happen in other parts of the country or what might come from other actions. He feels it's a mixed bag of information regarding how the weekend went for some; obviously when businesses can only open up about a third of what they would normally, it's going to affect their income and number of employees. He added, so it's a wait and see now and he's anxious to see what happens over the next two weeks as far as any kind of results from the weekend. He reminded everyone it's election time, there are lots of issues going on, things being brought up and he hopes everyone can go into the elections to seek to find the best candidates to serve the citizens of Branson. He explained the City's system alternates three Aldermen and Mayor every two years and he thinks it's important for people interested in seeing Branson move forward to get good information and learn what's going on. Mayor Akers believes it's also important to have civility and a relationship where people can work together and it's sad when that's not happening.

ADJOURN

Mayor Akers asked for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Skains moved to adjourn, seconded by Alderman Milton. Voting aye: Clonts, Simmons, Skains, Milton and Castillon. Nays: none. Absent: McConnell. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



E. Edd Akers
Mayor



Lisa Westfall
City Clerk